

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed (February 23, 2005). Claims 1, 12, 19, 23, 24, 28, and 30 have been amended to clarify aspects of these claims. Accordingly, claims 1-33 remain pending.

In the February 23, 2005 Office Action, all the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over British Patent 2219777 to Taylor ("Taylor") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,809,933 to Buzby et al. ("Buzby"). The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on May 4, 2005. During the telephone interview the Examiner agreed that amending claim 1 to clarify that the resilient member retracts when tension is reduced would distinguish the claim over the applied references. Claim 1 has been so amended and accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons, and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Independent claims 12 and 19 have been amended in a manner generally similar to that described above with reference to claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these independent claims should be withdrawn. Claims 13-18 depend from claim 12, and claims 20-22 depend from claim 19. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these dependent claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

During the May 4, 2005 telephone interview, the Examiner further indicated that claims 23 and 28 would be patentable over the applied references if amended to clarify that the support structure or boom is a single boom. Claims 23 and 28 have been so amended, and are accordingly patentable over the applied references for at least the following reasons: Taylor includes an arrangement that pivots a boom during stowage, but provides no motivation to add an extendable feature to his boom. Buzby and U.S. Patent No. 4,147,317 to Mayhew et al. ("Mayhew"), which was also identified by the Examiner, rely on multiple booms and provide no motivation for either combining their disclosed features with those of Taylor or modifying their arrangements to include a

single boom. In fact, it would appear that such a modification would render the devices disclosed by Mayhew and Buzby inoperable. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of claims 23 and 28 should be withdrawn.

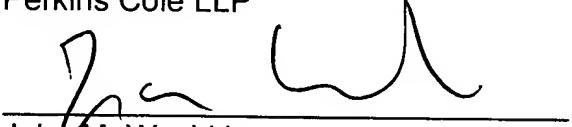
Claims 24-27 depend from claim 23, and claims 29-33 depend from claim 28. The Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

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